

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228106
ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
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NEA/IRN - MJOHNSON
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PDC/RDP - N HOLLIS (INFORMATION)
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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: COAL USE IN IRAN

1. GEORGE TYLER, ECONOMIST OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MET WITH STATE AND DOE REPRESENTATIVES AUGUST 28, TO DISCUSS HIS INTEREST IN POSSIBLE US-IRAN COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND GREATER USE OF IRANIAN COAL RESOURCES FOR DOMESTIC ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.

2. TYLER'S FEELINGS, BASED ON MEETINGS AND INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO IRAN, LEAD HIM TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 228106

BELIEVE THAT COLLABORATION IN THIS AREA HOLDS POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT MUTUAL BENEFITS. IN ADDITION TO BROADENING OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN, INCREASED COAL USE BASED ON US ASSISTANCE COULD IN HIS OPINION, RELEASE IMPORTANT QUANTITIES OF OIL FOR EXPORT OR FEEDSTOCK AND REPRESENT MAJOR EXPORT SALES OPPORTUNITIES FOR US SUPPLIES OF MINING EQUIPMENT AND RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO OBTAIN FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

(A) INFORMATION ON TYPE, VOLUME AND ACCESSIBILITY OF IRANIAN COAL RESERVES.

(B) HOW DO THESE COAL RESOURCES NOW FIGURE IN IRAN'S ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

(C) WOULD US BUREAU OF MINES, DOE, OR US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY EXPERTISE BE OF ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN (A) ABOVE?

(D) EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF IRANIANS MIGHT REACT TO SUCH AN OFFER?

4. IN EMBASSY'S CONTACTS WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON COAL WE SHOULD NOT GIVE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE AN OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA. ANY US MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD NEED TO BE BASED ON CAREFUL STUDY OF COMMENTS AND INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY EMBASSY AND FROM OTHER SOURCES. IF SUCH A PROGRAM COULD BE DEVELOPED, WE WOULD HOPE TO ARRANGE IT UNDER AUSPICES OF JOINT COMMISSION ON REIMBURSEABLE BASIS. CHRISTOPHER

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